Abstract

The invention provide a method and an apparatus for facial image acquisition and/or recognition using active lights to rid of environmental lights, active lights are used to illuminate a face area when face images are captured by an image capturing unit and sent to a computer for face recognition processing. This effectively minimizes unfavorable influence caused by environmental lights, and provides excellent basis for highly accurate face recognition under varying lighting conditions. When active lights are of infrared type, an imaging process is non-intrusive to human eyes. When a strength of active lights prevails over that of environmental lights, a captured face image encodes the most relevant information about a face and can leads to highly accurate recognition performance.